



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1725 | FAX (517) 373.0741

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus/

For Immediate Release
October 6, 2005

Contact: Veronica LaDuke
517-373-1725

Senate approves McManus bill to expand list of illegal law-enforcement identifiers

LANSING – The Michigan Senate on Thursday approved legislation to expand the list of police identifiers forbidden or restricted for civilian use under Michigan law, Sen. Michelle McManus announced.

These identifiers include the logo, service mark, patch or uniform of a Michigan law enforcement agency.

“We are doing our duty to protect Michigan residents from people trying to take advantage of them by falsely representing a police officer or firefighter,” said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. “There have been too many cases of robberies and assaults by someone pretending to be a law enforcement official. This will help to provide additional protections against such crimes.”

Senate Bill 444, sponsored by McManus, would give officers of the law more tools against criminals like two individuals who posed as police officers to trick an 83-year-old Ingham County woman out of thousands of dollars in September. Law enforcement officers report similar scams have been taking place all over the state, especially in the Grand Rapids area, in recent months.

The bill also strengthens the penalties for those violate the law. Under the bill, the crime would be a 93-day misdemeanor instead of a 90-day one. This would mean violators would be required to be fingerprinted and their information entered into the Law Enforcement Information Network. LEIN tracks people and keeps a history of their criminal activity.

SB 444 now goes to the House for consideration.

###